

As a writer and researcher, and a member of the television viewing public, I am appalled that a company can control the airwaves to further its political agenda the way Sinclair Broadcasting has decided to do. The company's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry film -- designed to look like a documentary but in reality crafted to attack Kerry -- days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. I do not want the democratic process compromised. As a journalist, I strongly feel that Sinclair is violating its duty to the public for fair and balanced reporting. And I believe that their practices are exceedingly unethical.

Sinclair's actions clearly show that we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.